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Central Florida Future

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The Student Newspaper at UCF since 1968

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UCF gold rush

Knights pummel UTEP Miners to the tune of 109 points — SEE SPORTS, A7

Gamer's Paradise

Otronicon took over the Orlando Science Center last weekend — SEE VARIETY, A9



FOOD

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME FROG WITH THAT?

A Brooklyn shopper was surprised to find a tiny frog in the leaves of the organic lettuce she was preparing to eat. Yvonne Brechbuhler said she bought the lettuce at her local food co-op and kept it in the refrigerator three days before using it last week. Brechbuhler decided to name the frog "Curious."



MONEY

A PENNY SAVED IS A PENNY EARNED

It took Vicki Armstrong almost 19 years to save \$550, which isn't much of an accomplishment — except that she did it one penny at a time. Armstrong was planning to take her 55,000 pennies to the bank this week. She said saving them helped her reinforce frugal spending habits. Armstrong has been storing pennies in vases, bowls and shoeboxes.



AROUND CAMPUS, A2

LATE KNIGHTS IS BACK TONIGHT AT THE STUDENT UNION

The Office of Student Involvement will be holding the next installment of Late Knights tonight from 9 p.m. to 11:45 p.m. at the Student Union. The theme will be Space Jam. Free Black and Gold basketball shirts will be handed out.

LOCAL & STATE, A2

BOARD OF GOVERNORS VOTES FOR FLORIDA TUITION INCREASE

Florida university and college students could pay about \$400 more per year in tuition starting next fall under a proposal approved Thursday by a state education committee. Almost a third of the money brought in by the tuition increase would go to need-based financial aid.

NATION & WORLD, A4

CHINA LASHES OUT AT DALAI LAMA, OTHER OLYMPIC CRITICS

In a blast of harsh rhetoric, China lashed out Thursday at the Dalai Lama and critics of Beijing's support for Sudan, saying attempts to link political issues to the Beijing Summer Olympics betrayed the spirit of the games.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

MOSTLY SUNNY
64° 47°
HIGH LOW

Med school gets another donation

\$160K bring scholarships over halfway point

ROBYN SIDERSKY
Staff Writer

Twenty-three students in the inaugural class of the UCF College of Medicine will now have their tuition and living expenses covered when they step foot on the Lake Nona campus in fall 2009.

John C. Gray Jr., a commercial and residential real estate

developer and president of Lake Mary-based Pinnacle Cos., presented Dr. Deborah German, dean of the UCF College of Medicine, with a check for \$160,000 Wednesday.

In order to offer the entire class scholarships, the school must raise \$6.4 million to pay for all 40 students in the inaugural class.

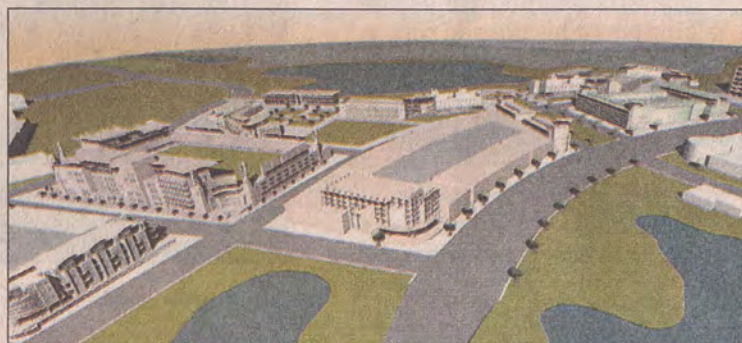
To date, the school has

raised \$3.68 million — more than half of what's needed to fund the entire class.

"Now that we're past the halfway mark, we encourage others to step forward and help us reach our goal," UCF spokeswoman Zenaída González Kotala said.

Each student in the inaugu-

PLEASE SEE MED ON A6



COURTESY UCF NEWS AND INFORMATION
The College of Medicine is set to open in fall 2009. As of right now, they have had 23 scholarship donations. The most recent was from John C. Gray Jr., a real estate developer.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008



Sophomore film major Corey Martinez mans the Ron Paul support booth in front of the Student Union last Tuesday, Jan. 15. Paul, a presidential candidate, stands for no taxation on tips.

With Libertarian and Presidency FOR PAUL

UCF group supports Ron Paul campaign

SHADAI RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

Alafaya Trail and the surrounding UCF area are littered with signs and bumper stickers promoting Ron Paul.

With the Florida presidential primary less than a week away, a significant number of UCF students are showing their support for the Texas congressman who ran as a Libertarian for president in 1988 and is now shooting for the Republican presidential

nomination.

One group in particular, UCF's new Libertarian organization Knights for Liberty, has taken time to regularly table in front of the Student Union. They pass out bumper stickers and literature about Paul's politics and show their support of him for president.

The Knights for Liberty will continue this promotion of Paul until the Jan. 29 Florida primary.

"We are also doing a lot of canvassing," said Corey Mar-

tinez, a film major and member of Knights for Liberty. "We are knocking on doors every weekend and giving Ron Paul literature to registered Republicans."

The organization gets most of its material and information from the national Ron Paul campaign Web site.

"We go to big events and move signs," said Nik Ritchie, a music major and president of Knights for Liberty, "and we have helped people to register



to vote."

They

have also been campaigning for Paul through their Facebook group, "University of Central Florida Students for Ron Paul."

"Ron Paul is not your

PLEASE SEE STUDENT ON A5

Union's Qdoba springs gas leak

Broken pilot light possible cause of leak

WILLIAM RICHARDS
Contributing Writer

A gas leak at the Qdoba Mexican Grill brought police and firefighters to the Student Union on Jan. 11 to prevent a potentially dangerous incident.

"This isn't the first time," said Custodian Supervisor Fior Marrero. "Around three or four times this has happened. Always at night."

Marrero and Student Union Building Manager Karen Chirfman first realized something was wrong around 11:30 p.m.

Chirfman said Qdoba probably closed at 5 or 6 p.m., giving the gas all that time to build up.

"When you walked by the doors, you could really smell it," Chirfman said.

Chirfman explained that all of Qdoba's incidents have apparently resulted from a broken pilot light.

Qdoba's manager said the same thing to police, according to a police report.

In the past, Marrero has always found her key to Qdoba when she smelled gas. She would then go into the restaurant and fix the problem.

"This time I didn't find my key," Marrero said. "I don't know who took it or where it disappeared to."

Chirfman then tried to contact the store's manager but was unable to reach him. With no way to gain access to the restaurant, the situation became increasingly volatile.

At that point, Chirfman

PLEASE SEE FIRE ON A6

Cracks at Knightro's 'not structural'

KARI WILBERG
Staff Writer

Knightro's, UCF's new meal plan option on the north end of campus, will not open as scheduled — but cement cracks are not to blame.

The debut of the eatery on East Plaza Drive was originally thought to be delayed because of major cracks in the floors. Chad Binette, assistant director for UCF News and Information, said that the cracks are not the culprit.

"The planning and construction work for added student-friendly features — and not the presence of concrete cracks — is why Knightro's is opening later than anticipated," Binette said.

These "student-friendly features" that are prolonging Knightro's opening include ventilation ducts, electrical connections and sinks throughout the facility.

Binette said these additions are being made because Knightro's calls for food to be prepared at several stations

throughout the dining facility, not just in one kitchen.

"There are no problems," said Jack McGowan, project executive for KUD International, the developer overseeing the entire north end of campus. "Changes were made to benefit the project after UCF decided to not open Knightro's in January."

The floor cracks may not be causing the delay, but they're not pretty.

"The cracks in the floor are

PLEASE SEE FEW ON A6



SARAH ROGERS / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
Knightro's was set to open the first day of the spring semester, but the "student-friendly" features have delayed the opening, not the cracks in the foundation as originally thought.

AROUND CAMPUS

News and notices for the UCF community

Late Knights is back tonight

The Office of Student Involvement will be holding the next installment of Late Knights tonight from 9 p.m. to 11:45 p.m. at the Student Union. The theme will be Space Jam and will be a mix of your night club atmosphere with a little bit of basketball on the side.

Free Black and Gold basketball game shirts will be handed out as well as free food. For more information, contact ucflk@mail.ucf.edu.

Famous jazz trumpeter visits UCF

Eugene "Snooky" Young, famous jazz trumpeter, will be at UCF tonight from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Visual Arts Building. He will be talking about his life and career, and will perform with members of the UCF Jazz Faculty. For more information, contact Lyman Brodie at 407-823-0119.

VUCF presents Tutor with Meals

Volunteer UCF presents Tutor with Meals today from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. They will be providing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to children living in poverty.

For those who are interested, RSVP with Kraesly at VUCF_Hunger@mail.ucf.edu and meet at the Visual Arts Building at 3:15 p.m. to carpool.

CAB tries to break Guinness record

The Campus Activities Board and the Orlando History Center are inviting students downtown Saturday from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. to help break the Guinness World Record for the most people Yo-Yoing at the same time. Event registration starts at 1:30 p.m. and goes until 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact cabevents@mail.ucf.edu.

LOCAL & STATE

Keep local with headlines you may have missed

Board of Governors panel votes for Florida tuition increase

TALLAHASSEE — Florida university and college students could pay about \$400 more per year in tuition starting next fall under a proposal approved Thursday by a state education committee.

Almost a third of the money brought in by the tuition increase would go to need-based financial aid under the plan. The rest would be used to hire and retain faculty in an effort to change an embarrassing statistic: Florida's universities have the worst student-to-faculty ratio in the country.

State universities are concerned about fewer tax dollars coming their way, with the state's impending budget crisis. Last year's university budget was basically flat after cuts in the fall. But after inflation and student growth were factored in, officials said schools essentially saw their budgets decrease by 9 percent.

The plan still must be approved by the full Board of Governors, which oversees the state's university system. But more than half the board was on the budget committee that voted 5-4 to send the increase proposal to the full panel. If approved, the increase would raise \$56 million in the first year.

Board member Gus Stavros, who isn't on the board's budget committee, said he was embarrassed by the system's inability to attract the best faculty because of low budgets.

"I have never been involved with a mediocre institution in my life," he said. "This country was not made great by mediocre people.... We have to have quality faculty, professors, we have to raise tuition."

The exact amount of the increase isn't set because it is tied to other states' tuition, but university officials said the increase would likely be about \$440 per student per year the first year.

Florida ranks last among the states in four-year tuition and fees charged by public universities at about \$3,361 per undergraduate student. The average tuition nationwide is about \$6,200 a year.

PLEASE SEE LOCAL ON A4



Students gather around the Student Union Wednesday night before the Men's Basketball game against UTEP for the Digital Life Gaming event.

COURTESY BRANDON DELANOIS

Getting the party STARTED

Pre-game event jump-starts fun

ROBYN SIDERSKY
Staff Writer

The atmosphere in front of the new UCF Arena Wednesday night was alive with students, alumni and basketball fans for the Digital Life Gaming event.

Before every Men's Basketball game for the rest of the season, students will have the opportunity to rock out to their favorite music with *Rock Band*, sample *Halo 3* or learn about student organizations.

After getting off to a rough start Jan. 12 and being forced to end early due to inclement weather, the second time around was much more successful before Wednesday's game.

"We're having this event to add to the excitement of a home basketball game and to supply students with an opportunity to have a good time," said Brandon Delanois, the Student Government Association's Athletic Relations coordinator.

Although SGA organized the event, all the equipment for the night was donated by the UCF Computer Store, Hard Knocks Laser Tag and ISP Sports.

"It's a pre-game fan experience to celebrate the digital lifestyle of the UCF campus," Delanois said.

A stage directly in front of the Arena allowed students to do their best impressions of their favorite artists with *Rock Band*, playing songs such as "Dani California" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers and "Black Hole Sun" by Soundgarden.

"I got a chance to embarrass myself," said Matias Barbero, a junior film major at Full Sail.

Barbero, a first-time player, said he would practice more before trying *Rock Band* again but plans to attend the rest of the games this season.

Alumni who came out for the basketball game joined the digital fun as well.

"I think it's wonderful, and the more you can offer alumni, donors and students, the more likely they're gonna go," said Josh Strzalko, who graduated from UCF in 2002 and has season tickets to Men's Basketball games.

UCF Sports Clubs had a tent set up and were actively promoting their activities.

"We mostly provide sports without varsity teams," said senior criminal justice major Zach Sanford, president of the Wrestling Club at UCF.

Clubs encompass a variety of sports from wrestling and lacrosse — the most popular — to hockey, tennis and



COURTESY BRANDON DELANOIS

Top: Students play a video game outside the Student Union Wednesday night as part of the Digital Life Gaming event organized by the Student Government Association. Above: Students do their best impressions of their favorite bands playing *Rock Band*. The event will be held prior to every Men's Basketball game for the rest of the season. All equipment for the event was donated by the UCF Computer Store, Hard Knocks Laser Tag and ISP Sports.

crew.

"They get you actively involved with the school," senior history and psychology major Nicole Mezak said.

Knightcast broadcasted music for students but didn't interfere with the *Rock Band* performers.

"We do what we can to build community and to make games bigger around campus," said Nick Markovich, Knightcast station director.

The Ultimate Frisbee Club was also out recruiting students to be a part of their two teams. They rank in the top 25 teams nationwide.

Greek organizations, such as Kappa

Kappa Gamma, came to the game and competed in a "socks only" tug-of-war match at halftime.

SGA Vice President Logan Berkowitz came out to support the event.

"These events bring people out that would not be your average sports fans," Berkowitz said.

Film students can showcase their films to the crowd before the game as well.

Delanois said he hopes the event will bring more people out to the basketball games and create a lot of excitement before every game.

LOCAL WEATHER



Today
MOSTLY
SUNNY
High: 64°
Low: 47°

TODAY IN DETAIL

Today: Mostly sunny. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 46°. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



Saturday
CHANCE SHOWERS
High: 69°
Low: 51°

Sunday
MOSTLY SUNNY
High: 69°
Low: 46°

Central Florida Future

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Dow up more than 400 points over two days

TIM PARADIS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street scored its second straight big advance Thursday after economic figures suggested the job market is holding up and as lawmakers promised measures that could ease concerns about consumer spending. The Dow Jones industrials rose more than 100 points, bringing its two-day gain to more than 400.

While stocks fluctuated throughout the session, trading was decidedly more calm than on Wednesday, when Wall Street executed a stunning turnaround that transformed a sharp sell-off into big gains for stocks. Thursday's rise was notable, however, as investors will often move in a day after a rally or plunge to take profits or scoop up bargains. That the buying largely continued was a positive sign, observers said.

Investors were clearly interested in buying, but despite the size of the advance, there didn't appear to be much conviction to it — the market is still searching for clues about the economy in hopes of determining

whether it will soon pick up or will continue to slow and tip into recession.

In addition, the market wobbled during the session after Fitch Ratings lowered its rating on bond insurer Security Capital Assurance Ltd. Bond insurers have been hurt in the fallout from the mortgage and credit crises, and news of their problems has shaken the market.

But those seeking good news found some in a Labor Department report that said the number of people seeking unemployment benefits last week fell for a fourth straight week. Applications for benefits dropped 1,000 to 301,000, pushing claims down to the lowest level in four months.

Investors also appeared pleased by a widely anticipated agreement between Congressional leaders and the White House on an economic stimulus package. The agreement calls for most tax filers to be given refunds of \$600 to \$1,200, and more if they have children.

Bill Dwyer, chief investment officer at MTB Investment Advisors in Baltimore, said Wall Street found some relief from word of the economic stimulus plan as well

as the efforts of regulators to help bond insurers. He said the Federal Reserve's decision to lower interest rate this week could also help some struggling homeowners hold on to their properties. The efforts, he said, could ultimately help stave off recession.

"People have that 'R' word stuck on the front of their forehead. It's really just a dramatic slowing of growth. We may not have a recession," Dwyer said.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 108.44, or 0.88 percent, to 12,378.61, following a nearly 300 point surge on Wednesday. The Dow has not finished higher for two straight sessions since Jan. 9-10.

Broader stock indicators also rose. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 13.47, or 1.01 percent, to 1,352.07, and the Nasdaq composite index advanced 44.51, or 1.92 percent, to 2,360.92.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by 4 to 3 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 2.18 bil-

lion shares.

The Dow on Wednesday swung 631.86 points from its low point to its high — its largest single-day reversal in more than five years.

Stephen Carl, principal and head of equity trading at The Williams Capital Group, said Thursday's overall trading reflected a continuation of the bounce that first began on Tuesday, when the Fed lowered its federal funds rate by a steep 0.75 percentage point, or 75 basis points, to 3.5 percent.

He said investors were also encouraged that the government's rebate plan, while not perfect, appeared to be progressing. Still, despite some investors' mostly upbeat mood, uncertainty remained. The market's about-face Wednesday, while certainly a relief for many investors, illustrated the fractiousness that has settled into Wall Street in recent months.

"We still have a long way to go in getting the economy on track," Carl said. "Whether we

dip into a recession or not, a lot of things need to be fleshed out in the markets."

Bond prices fell as stocks rose. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.67 percent from 3.55 percent late Wednesday. The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices rose.

Light, sweet crude oil for March delivery rose \$2.42 to settle at \$89.30 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after the agreement on the economic stimulus plan. Traders wagered the plan to put money in consumers' pockets could increase demand for oil.

Some of Wall Street's most recent concerns relate to the downgrade from Security Capital and broader unease about the stability of bonds. However, investors also looked to New York state regulators in hopes they can hatch a plan to shore up the bond insurance industry. New York Insurance Superin-

tendent Eric Dinallo said in a statement Thursday it likely will take time to draw up measures to help the industry.

After the Fitch downgrade, Security Capital fell \$1.16, or 30.6 percent, to \$2.63.

Beyond bond insurers, investors had concerns about the health of corporate profits. Online auctioneer eBay Inc. said late Wednesday its fourth-quarter earnings and revenue showed gains. While the results were stronger than Wall Street had expected, investors were concerned by the company's first-quarter forecast, which fell short of expectations. The stock fell \$1.76, or 6.1 percent, to \$27.18.

Ford Motor Co. reported it lost \$2.7 billion in the fourth quarter as weakness in North America offset gains in markets elsewhere; the loss was narrower than the \$5.6 billion seen a year earlier, however. Excluding special items, Ford's results fell just short of Wall Street's target. Ford slipped 4 cents to \$6.26.

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LOCAL & STATE

FROM A2

The proposal before the board would raise that to rank Florida about 39th in the nation, just above Mississippi.

Another proposal approved by the board's budget committee Thursday basically directs the schools to be ready for state budget cuts, telling them to keep their admissions lower than they otherwise might until they know how much money they have. The full board will take up the plan later Thursday.

University spokesman Bill Edmonds said the system needs to hire about 2,000 faculty to raise its faculty-student ratio from its current 31-to-1 to the national average of 25-to-1.

The proposal would get the system there and an increase of "\$220 a semester is not a backbreaker" for students, Edmonds said.

If enrollment in the state's university system were to be less next year than it is this year, it would be the first drop in the number of college students in the state in modern memory, Edmonds said.

Several board members said they understood the difficulty the Legislature faces with tax collections dropping nearly every time state economists revise their forecasts.

A tuition increase is "a difficult decision," said the board's chairwoman, Carolyn Roberts. But with the money currently available, "it is very difficult to compete with the great systems of the country."

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

HIGHER EDUCATION

What's in the news at colleges around the country

Colleges don't expect endowment gains like last year

Colleges earned an average of 17.2 percent on their endowments in the 2007 fiscal year, impressive returns that could prove to be an important financial cushion against a possible recession.

The overall return for the fiscal year that ended June 30 was the highest in nearly a decade, according to the annual report released today by the National Association of College and University Business Officers in conjunction with TIAA-CREF Asset Management.

In the months since the end of the fiscal year, some colleges have reported a falloff in earnings because of losses in funds holding subprime mortgages and other faltering investments. Wellesley College, for example, had a return of more than 22 percent in the 2007 fiscal year but recently reported that its return from July to the end of November was 3 percent.

With the downturn in the economy and the growing volatility of worldwide markets, colleges are unlikely to see a repeat of high earnings in 2008, said Scott C. Malpass, vice president and chief investment officer at the University of Notre Dame. "Clearly it's a tougher year."

In 2007, Notre Dame's 27-percent return—reportedly second among the largest funds only to Yale University's 28-percent gain—helped to bring the endowment to just under \$6 billion by mid-2007.

Malpass said Notre Dame had not lost any endowment value since June because the endowment, like many others, was sufficiently hedged and diversified, so that downturns in one asset were offset by gains in others.

Even smaller endowments are diversified these days.

According to the latest survey, based on data from 785 institutions, endowments of \$25 million to \$100 million in value had nearly 40 percent of their assets in investments other than stocks.

— CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NATION & WORLD

Keep current with headlines from around the globe



Reporters Without Borders members unfurl posters of Olympic rings made from handcuffs outside the headquarters of the Beijing Olympics planning committee on Aug. 6, 2007.

China lashes out at Dalai Lama, other Olympic critics

BEIJING — In a blast of harsh rhetoric, China lashed out Thursday at the Dalai Lama and critics of Beijing's support for Sudan, saying attempts to link political issues to the Beijing Summer Olympics betrayed the spirit of the games.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said China could "definitely not accept" rights groups that say China's support for Sudan's government is prolonging the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

She also attacked the Dalai Lama as a religious phony seeking to split China, a response to the exiled Tibetan leader's reported support for peaceful protests during the Olympics.

Beijing's tough approach illustrates its extreme sensitivity toward anything that might tarnish its staging of the Aug. 8-24 Olympic Games. Beijing has invested billions of dollars and national prestige in what it hopes will be a glorious showcase of China's rapid development from impoverished agrarian nation to rising industrial power.

A tide of criticism from rights groups, celebrities and international media threatens to dampen the mood surrounding the games.

China says it plays a constructive role in seeking to resolve the Darfur conflict, where more than 200,000 people have died since 2003, when local rebels took up arms against the Arab-dominated Sudanese government.

Deal on emergency economic rescue package closer

WASHINGTON — House Democratic and Republican leaders are looking for imminent agreement with the White House on an emergency package to jolt the economy out of its slump after negotiators on all sides made significant concessions at a late-night bargaining session.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi agreed to drop increases in food stamp and unemployment benefits during the Wednesday meeting in exchange for gaining a rebate of at least \$300 for each person earning a paycheck, including low-income earners who make too little to pay income taxes.

Families with children would receive an additional \$300 per child, subject to an overall cap of perhaps \$1,200, according to a senior House aide who outlined the deal on condition of anonymity in advance of formal adoption of the whole package.

Pelosi, D-Calif., and House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, had yet to reach agreement on a package of tax breaks for businesses after estimates showed a tentative business tax agreement could exceed \$70 billion, far more than had been expected, the aide and a Democratic lobbyist said.

Pelosi and Boehner appeared optimistic as they left their third extended negotiating session of the day with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. "We'll have more to say tomorrow," Boehner said. "We're hopeful."

Suicide bomber kills provincial police chief at Mosul blast site

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber killed an Iraqi police chief and two other officers Thursday as they surveyed the site of the wreckage of a blast a day earlier that devastated a predominantly Sunni neighborhood in the volatile northern city of Mosul.

The casualty toll from Wednesday's explosion rose to at least 34 dead and 224 injured, said Hisham al-Hamdani, the head of the Ninevah provincial council. The blast obliterated a three-story apartment building and ravaged adjacent houses just minutes after the Iraqi army arrived to investigate tips about a weapons cache.

Brig. Gen. Salah Mohammed al-Jubouri, the police chief for surrounding Ninevah province, was killed as he left the blast site after being confronted by an angry crowd shouting "Allahu Akbar" or "God is Great" while he inspected damage near the crater.

Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, has become one of the latest fronts in U.S.-led efforts to rid the country of al-Qaida-linked militants who fled crackdowns in the capital and surrounding areas. While the levels of violence have fallen in much of the country, attacks have persisted north of Baghdad.

In Thursday's attack, a bomber disguised as a policeman blew himself up as the entourage was just yards away from their vehicles, said police spokesman Saeed al-Jubouri. Al-Jubouri is a tribal name common in Mosul.

The police chief was killed, along with two other officers, and five people were wounded, including three Iraqi police, an Iraqi soldier and a U.S. soldier, the U.S. military said.

The military said initial reports indicated al-Qaida in Iraq was behind Thursday's attack, but Wednesday's explosion remained under investigation.

Super Tuesday won't decide the presidential nominees

WASHINGTON — Don't look to crown any presidential nominees on Super Tuesday.

The race for delegates is so close in both parties that it is mathematically impossible for any candidate to lock up the nomination on Feb. 5, according to an Associated Press analysis of the states in play that day.

"A lot of people were predicting that this presidential election on both sides was going to be this massive sprint that ended on Feb. 5," said Jenny Backus, a Democratic consultant who is not affiliated with any candidate.

Now it's looking as if the primaries after Super Tuesday — including such big, delegate-rich states as Texas, Ohio and Pennsylvania — could grow in importance.

"Maybe some states were better off waiting," said Backus.

That doesn't mean Super Tuesday won't be super after all. Voters in more than 20 states will go to the polls on the biggest day of the primary campaign, and thousands of delegates will be at stake.

But it's possible Feb. 5 might not even produce clear front-runners.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Pi Kappa Alpha house has been vacant for more than three years and now it will be torn down to make room for future Greek housing.

Trustees decide to tear down Pike house

NATALIE MORERA
News Editor

The UCF Board of Trustees has approved the demolition of the Pi Kappa Alpha house and the purchase of two other Greek houses that were left empty last year.

According to the BOT agenda, the demolition of the Pike house must not exceed \$40,000.

The company that will tear down the structure has not been chosen, and it is not known when the Pike house will be torn down.

The land left over will be used to build future Greek housing, but it is unknown who will get the houses that will be built on the vacant land.

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Sigma Phi Epsilon houses will be renovated and then owned and managed by the university. When the two buildings are purchased, they will be added to the UCF housing residence system.

Greg Mason, the director of Greek Housing for Fraternity and Sorority Life, said the demolition of the Pike house is positive news.

"That building is an eyesore," Mason said.

As for who will be taking over the two vacant houses on Greek Park Drive, Mason said, "We're not that far along in the process."

Christine Dellert of News and Information said, as of right now, no process has been decided upon, but the new residents will most likely be decided through an application process.

"They'll look at the Greek organizations that are interested and do an application process," Dellert said.

In that process, chapters would be selected based on academics, philanthropy work, conduct record, chapter population and financial information to determine who is deserving of the home and who can maintain it.

The homes that are currently on Greek Park Drive were not chosen through an application process.

UCF won the Pike house on Dec. 21, 2006 after a legal battle with the Eta Phi Chapter Alumni Association. The Orange County Circuit Court Judge ruled that the association violated their sublease agreement by not maintaining the house.

Had the university chosen to restore the house, it would have cost \$1.4 million.

Mason said through the building of future Greek houses, they will be providing students with a better living and learning experience.

"In the long run, we can build something that is more conducive to the needs of our organization," Mason said.

The SAE and SigEp homes are in better shape although there are repairs that need to



Along with the Pike house being demolished, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Sigma Phi Epsilon houses will be bought by the university pending their appraisal. Greek chapters will be given the opportunity to rent those houses after the university renovates them.

be made, such as repairs to the fire sprinklers.

The homes are currently undergoing an appraisal process to determine how much it will cost the university to purchase them.

Mason said the school is following the sublease agreement section six, which states that when the group leasing the home is no longer on campus, there is a sublease, and

when that occurs, the university has the right to cancel the sublease and purchase the housing.

Dellert said the university will be looking at renovating the homes pending a finance plan, which would need approval from the BOT.

"I know there are a lot of Greeks that need housing," Dellert said. "The university is well aware of that."

Student groups across the state support Ron Paul

FROM A1

typical Republican," Martinez said. "He is for young people."

And the young community seems to have embraced this candidate.

There are groups supporting Ron Paul at colleges across Florida, including Full Sail and the University of Miami.

"I have seen [Ron Paul] signs all over the state and all over other states," Martinez said.

Nate Taulman, an engineering major, became a supporter of Paul after some Internet research.

"I just went on every candidate's Web site, and I figured that Ron Paul had the most views I agreed with," Taulman said. "My biggest issue was the war in Iraq."

Taulman said he thinks that Paul's stance on the Iraq war is a big issue that attracts young supporters.

"He is the only Republican candidate that is for bringing back the troops now," Taulman said.

Paul has made his stance on the war clear by consistently voting against the Iraq war and not voting to fund the war in any way.

"He is consistent, and he doesn't flip-flop around with stuff," Taulman said. "That is why I like him."

Ritchie said he agrees with Taulman's view.

"He has the strongest record of opposition to the Iraq war, and he has the most spotless record as a congressman as far as being a fiscal conservative," Ritchie said. "None of the other candidates can claim his consistency."

For Martinez, Paul's ability to think about the future of young people makes him stand out.

"Ron Paul really appeals to the young generation because he really talks about things like Social Security and how we are paying for things we are not going to have later on," Martinez said.

Paul is also on the record addressing ways to end the war on drugs and the possibility of abolishing the IRS.

"He talks about issues that none of the other people running ever dare talk about," Ritchie said.

Despite this Paul buzz among college students, the congressman has yet to win one of the six Republican primaries that have already taken place. His closest state was Nevada, where he took second place. As a result, some predict that Paul will not get the Republican nomination.

"I'm tired of people predicting who's going to win," Ritchie said. "That is not how politics work. If his chances aren't good, then that gives us more of a reason to work for him."

Martinez said that people are paying attention to the wrong numbers.

"It boils down to which candidate gets the most delegates, not who wins the most states," he said.

Campaign funding also factors into Paul's chances.

"[On Nov. 5], Ron Paul



PHOTOS BY SHANNA FORTIER / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

broke John Kerry's record of raising the most money in one day," Taulman said.

Martinez said that Paul raised more than \$6 million in online donations within a 24-hour period, making political fundraising history.

"Giuliani and Thompson are running out of money," Martinez said. "I don't think Ron Paul is out of the water yet. He still has a chance for sure."

Some Paul supporters expressed that if Paul doesn't win the Republican nomination, he may try to run as an

independent. It's a different story, though, if he loses the presidency.

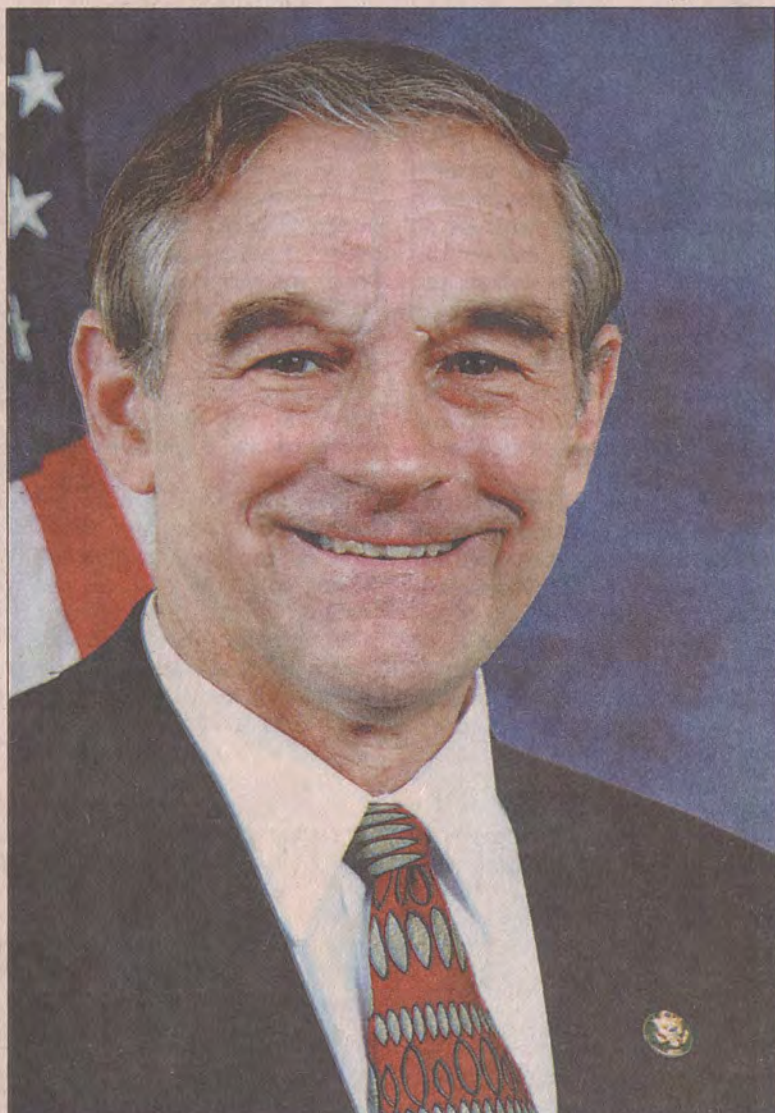
"As far as running for president again, I would say no," Martinez said. "Ron Paul's age is catching up to him."

Even if Paul is whipped out of the 2008 election, his supporters will continue to push his ideas.

"The Ron Paul revolution is bigger than Ron Paul," Martinez said. "I don't even see it as a Ron Paul revolution but as an American revolution. His supporters are going to

continue with his message of smaller government, civil liberties, freedom and peace.

"The end goal is to save America and the world."



WWW.HOUSE.GOV

Left: With the Florida primaries just around the corner, Ron Paul student supporters gather outside the Student Union to gain support for the man they say should be the next president of the United States. At the booth the student supporters handed out items like bumper stickers to inform others about their candidate. Not only did they reach out at the Student Union, but they have also hit the online community with a Facebook group titled, "University of Central Florida Students for Ron Paul." Above: Congressman Ron Paul, R-Texas, says on his Web site that he's working for a limited government, lower taxes, free markets and a "return to sound monetary policies." The former doctor joined Congress in 1997. He serves on the House Committee on Financial Services and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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Med school to exchange land, gain 5 open acres

FROM A1

ral class of 40 will receive \$40,000 in scholarships each of the four years they are in medical school. Half of the money will be for tuition and the other half will be for living expenses.

The drive is unique because it's the first of its kind in history, according to the American Association of Medical Colleges.

In other news, at the Board of Trustees meeting Jan. 17, a land swap was approved for the College of Medicine campus in Lake Nona.

The entire campus is 50 acres, but before the swap, 5 acres were unable to be used

by the medical school because there would be a chiller plant on the property.

The swap exchanges the 5 acres of land the chiller plant is on for 5 acres the College of Medicine can use.

"We want to be good neighbors, and the exchange of land is beneficial to us," Kotala said.

After earning the BOT's approval, the developer has begun to take steps to make it happen.

The campus will not only include the College of Medicine, but the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences and the College of Medicine Library. There is some talk of eventually moving the College of Nursing to Lake Nona, but that deci-

sion hasn't been made yet.

Within the next month, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education is expected to make a decision about granting the college preliminary accreditation. The school received a site visit in December.

If preliminary accreditation is earned, the school will enroll its first class in fall 2009.

German has also worked to recruit more than 160 members of the community as faculty for the college. Local physicians and researchers will help mentor and teach the students. The Burnett College of Biomedical Sciences will also make additional hires when it joins the College of Medicine.

Fire dept. orders evacuation

FROM A1

made the decision to call the police.

"I said, 'It's your show; do what you have to do because I can't do anything,'" Marrero said.

Chrifman instructed her staff member, Sarah Fulton, to call the non-emergency police line for UCF.

"We called the non-emergency line, since it wasn't really an emergency but it had to be dealt with," Chrifman said.

According to the police report, the UCF Police Department immediately ordered everyone to evacuate the Student Union upon the request of the fire department.

"Police and the fire department were there in five minutes," Chrifman said. "It was really quick."

The UCF police report stated that the smell of gas around the Qdoba restaurant was obvious. Fire and rescue units from three stations responded to the incident.

As the staff of the Student Union waited outside, the fire department attempted to gain access to Qdoba, while causing as little damage as possible.

"I guess it was chilly; it was so late," said Chrifman. "No one was really there, but a small crowd of people who were passing by gathered around."

The fire department would periodically come outside to ask the Student Union staff where certain things were located inside the building.

When firefighters

DETECTION OF GAS LEAKS IS SIMPLE

SMELL

In its natural state, gas is odorless. To help customers detect leaks, the gas company has added a special odorant to the gas so that even small leaks can be detected quickly. With the odorant, you can detect a mixture of less than 1 percent gas in the air. This percentage is far below the amount required for ignition to occur.

SOUND

An unusual noise from your appliance, or a hissing sound from piping or connections may also indicate a gas leak.

SIGHT

A gas leak may also be detected by unusual flame behavior at an appliance burner. Although rare, a fire in or near a gas appliance or piping are also signs of a leak.

USAGE

A sudden increase in your gas consumption as shown on your gas statement may indicate:

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Please call the gas company if you need assistance in determining the cause of an unexplainable increase in your gas usage.

breached Qdoba's doors, a glass panel in one of the doorframes came loose and shattered inside the restaurant. Qdoba has temporarily replaced their window with a green plastic panel.

Once inside Qdoba, the fire department could not determine the source of the gas leak. They were forced to shut down the main gas line to the Student Union.

According to the police report, the building manager was told to have no one use anything with gas until further notice.

"Once they were done, I had to get back in that night to

close up," Chrifman said. "I finished between 12 and 12:30 [a.m.]," said Chrifman. "We went about our usual closing business, but cops would check on us to make sure there wasn't still a problem with the gas."

Marrero said that those responsible at Qdoba should be more diligent about turning off their equipment.

"There are a lot of people working here, and it is very dangerous for us," Marrero said.

When asked for a statement, a Qdoba manager declined to comment on the incident.



SARAH ROGERS / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Cracks, like the ones above, were thought to have been causing Knightro's opening delay. Contractors have confirmed that the eatery can open despite those cracks. The delay has caused a handful of students to request refunds, said Chad Binette of News and Information.

Few have requested refunds

FROM A1

not significant or structural," McGowan said. "They are completely cosmetic, and we took some time to see to cosmetic corrections."

Binette explained that having some cracks is normal and in a lot of cases, cracks can be covered with carpet, tile and other kinds of finishes.

"The structural engineers of an independent firm [Nodarse & Associates] verify that it no way affects the functionality of the space," Binette said.

Knightro's cracks are proving more difficult than regular cracks because when the concrete settled, the cracks appeared in the middle of the sections.

The sections of the floors were already larger than normal, which is why the cracks are larger than normal.

According to Binette, the extra cost to fix these cracks is being covered by KUD International.

McGowan said that the developers are finishing the installation and the wiring and then will undergo the

inspection process. After that, it will be up to UCF to determine when Knightro's will officially open.

"Knightro's will be fully operational when it opens," Binette said.

It is unclear exactly how much Knightro's will cost once finished because the New UCF Arena, Bright House Networks Stadium, residence halls and Knightro's are all combined in bond issues for financing, meaning Knightro's is not independently funded.

Binette said that no tuition dollars are involved with financing Knightro's. Sales revenue from stores and restaurants, ticket sales from the Arena and advertising are all being used to finance construction.

Barnes & Noble, located on East Plaza Drive by Knightro's, is reported to have opened early and with ease.

"We didn't have any problems and opened ahead of schedule," said Alison McCool, operations manager at the Barnes & Noble at UCF.

Jennifer Wharton, the assistant operations manager

for the bookstore, said they opened on Aug. 15, which was one month early.

Wharton said that they not only had no problems opening, but they were lucky to receive their health permit quickly.

Cory Dunkin, the director of operations for Papa John's Corporate Orlando, said that he cannot recall any problems Papa John's had surrounding their opening.

Papa John's is located just one block west of Knightro's on West Plaza Drive.

Binette said only a handful of students have requested refunds due to Knightro's late opening.

"It is important to mention that we remain excited about the potential and the future success of the north end of campus," Binette said. "Students continue to rave about the new residence halls and shops that are great assets to our campus."

Binette also said that the Arena, Towers residence halls, parking garages and other amenities have all been completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

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schedule

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
SOUTHERN MISS
TODAY

8 P.M. (AWAY)

The Knights, who are coming off of their first Conference USA win of the season, will meet the Golden Eagles in Hattiesburg, Miss. The Golden Eagles rank high in offensive and defensive field-goal percentages, but they are just 1-4 in C-USA this season.

MEN'S TENNIS
RICE

TOMORROW

11 A.M. (HOME)

The Knights will start the dual-match portion of their spring season against the Owls. Rice won the National Collegiate Tennis Classic on Sunday. The Knights struggled in their first tournament of the spring, posting a 9-15 singles record in last weekend's USF Spring Classic.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
SMU

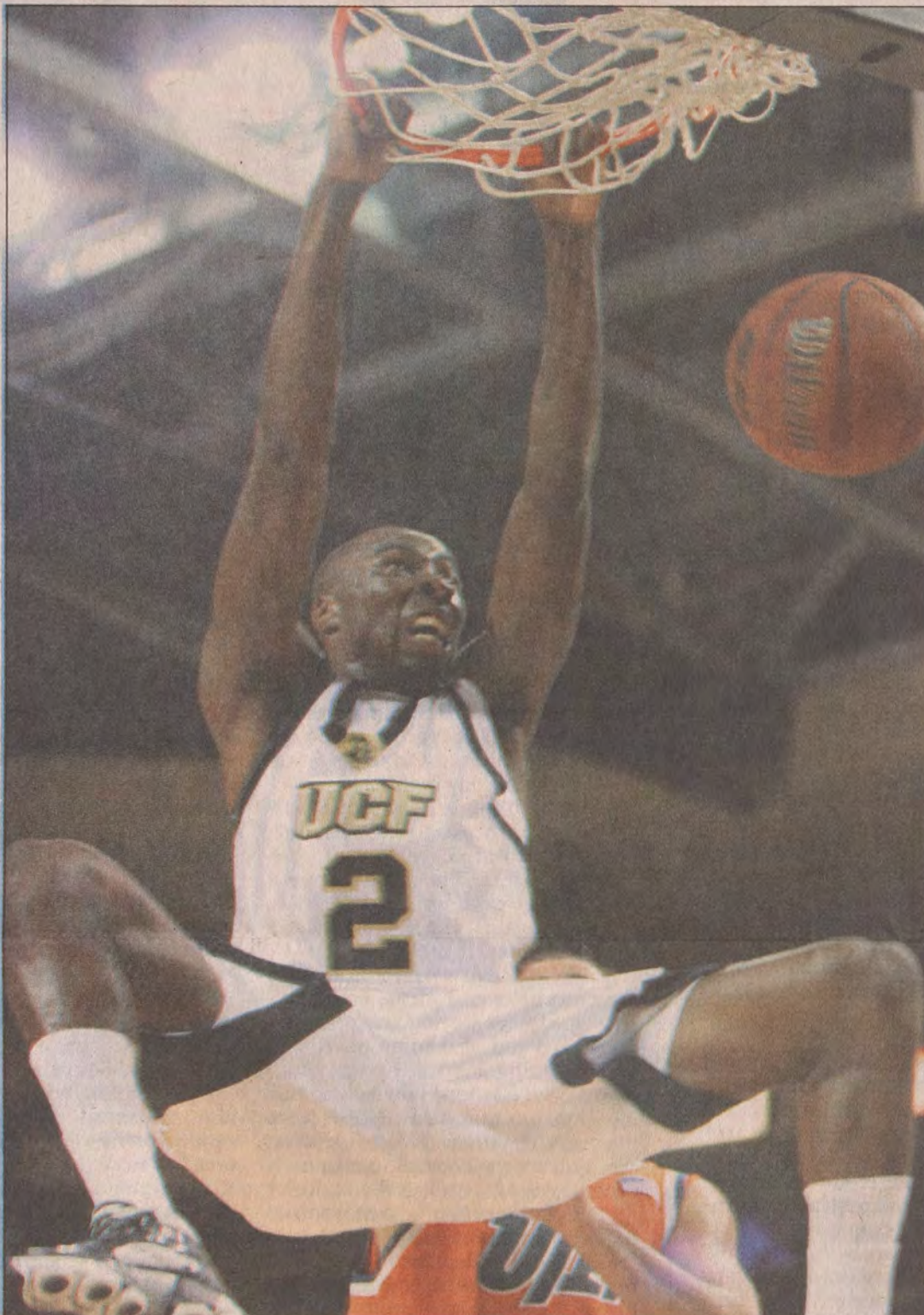
TOMORROW

8:05 P.M. (AWAY)

UCF will take on the Mustangs in Dallas. SMU has lost six consecutive games and are winless in conference play. The Mustangs also are C-USA's second-worst squad in points per game and rebounding margin. The Knights lost their only previous trip to Moody Coliseum, 77-55 in 2006.

C-USA GAME 4: UCF 109, UTEP 80

UCF cleans up with Formula 109



RAYMA JENKINS / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE



GREGORY TERRITO / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

UCF forward Tony Davis, top, dunks for two of his 16 points in the Knights' 109-80 win over UTEP on Wednesday. Davis was perfect from the field and was 1-of-1 from 3-point range. Above, UCF guard Dave Noel guards UTEP's Marvin Kilgore.

UCF's offense unleashes an onslaught with 109 points against the UTEP Miners



RAYMA JENKINS / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

UCF center Stanley Billings sits on the bench after injuring his elbow early in the second half of the Knights' 109-80 win over UTEP on Wednesday.

BRIAN MURPHY
Staff Writer

The UCF Men's Basketball team has an offense that is predicated on ball control, picking your shots and working off of set plays. But for one evening, the Knights looked like an offensive juggernaut, scoring at will from any spot on the court and destroying the UTEP Miners 109-80 on Wednesday night at the New UCF Arena.

That must be what happens when a team shoots 70.2 percent from the field.

"It's one of those nights where everything is cooking good, our offense is clicking," guard Dave Noel said. "Everybody was taking shots that they were supposed to. We weren't forcing anything and we were just knocking down shots. It's one of those days where everything goes in."

The 109 points are the most by the Knights in a single game since 1999 and the third-highest total in the program's Division I history. The field-goal percentage matches the best mark in program history.

UCF never trailed during the contest and led by as many as 31 late in the second half.

"We wouldn't expect that going into this game," UCF head coach Kirk Speraw said. "UTEP is a very good team. ... I fully expected this to be a tight, possession-by-possession game."

I'm surprised at how the game evolved."

For the second straight game, UCF (11-7 overall, 4-0 in Conference USA) began the game with tremendous energy. The Knights stormed out to a 12-2 lead in the first three minutes with the help of 3-pointers from guards Jermaine Taylor and Mike O'Donnell, forcing UTEP (11-6, 2-2) to take an early timeout.

The Knights know what fast starts and big leads are all about. In their previous game, they had a 29-7 advantage against East Carolina. They led Tulsa by as many as 22 points before that. But both of those leads vanished and the Knights were left to grind out two wins. They made sure that history didn't repeat itself Wednesday night.

With UCF's leading scorer in Taylor on the bench after being called for his second foul early in the first half, O'Donnell and Noel picked up the slack. The duo nearly outscored the entire UTEP team in the first half, 31-30.

The Knights began to really pull away when Noel made a 3-pointer that was directly followed by a hit from beyond the arc by O'Donnell. Those baskets put UCF up 23-8 with about 14:30 left in the first half.

Taylor checked back in around the 9-minute mark after the Knights extended

PLEASE SEE **FIVE** ON A8

UCF's true colors will emerge against UH

Four down; 12 to go. Watch your back, Memphis. Just kidding; the UCF Men's Basketball team isn't there yet.

But today the Knights and their fans can look up at the standings and see just one team ahead of them: Memphis.

The Almighty Tigers are rocking just one more conference win than the Knights.

The Knights' current streak of four straight Conference USA wins — and six of its last seven overall — is a great ride, one that nearly 5,000 of you show up to every night.

But UCF's impeccable conference record belies the truth behind its record.

UCF has yet to face its toughest competition, and excitement should be tempered as such.

The Knights have their strong points, to be sure. Jermaine Taylor is well on his way to one of the finest seasons in UCF history.

At his current pace, he will finish with one of the 10 most prolific scoring seasons ever seen at UCF.

Chip Cartwright is channeling his inner Keyon Dooling, driving and kicking and driving some more.

As a whole, the UCF offense is thriving, ranking third in C-USA in shooting

percentage and second in assists.

But for all of the greatness that was Wednesday night, not all that glitters at 4-0 is golden.



PADRICK BREWER
Sports Editor

Even with the return of Tony Davis to the lineup, the Knights' frontcourt still struggles on a consistent basis.

In all four C-USA contests, UCF has been outscored on

second-chance points.

Whether it be by slim margins — UTEP and Southern Miss — or large ones — ECU and Tulsa, UCF's rebounding leaves much to be desired.

And the elbow injury to Old Man Basketball Stanley Billings will not help matters.

Billings has been a stalwart in the past four games, averaging nearly 10 more minutes per game, and has increased his scoring and rebounding.

But Kenrick Zondervan has regressed since the start of conference play.

Billings will have to get healthy in a hurry, because the upcoming stretch for the

Knights will be indicative of their season to come.

After they travel to Houston to take on SMU, the real tests start coming.

They have a three-game homestand against UAB, Houston and Marshall before heading to Memphis, Tenn.

Beating Houston at home would be the ultimate stamp thus far, and would speak volumes to the nature of this team as it moves forward to the Conference USA Championship.

If the Knights can survive that stretch with a 3-1 record, they'll be sitting pretty at conference tournament time.

Five Knights score more than 10 points against the Miners

FROM A7

their lead by six points with him on the bench. They stayed white-hot from the field thanks to good ball movement which led to a bunch of easy baskets.

"When we started the game, I think I drove a couple of times and I saw [the inside] was open and we just took advantage of it," Noel said. "Especially in the zone (defense), the inside was a lot more open. But man, we didn't think that we were going to be able to get inside like that."

After consecutive layups by Noel and forward Andre Thornton, O'Donnell hit his fifth 3-pointer of the half while falling down to give the Knights a 47-25 lead. The Knights then went back to slicing apart the Miners' interior defense with layups by guard Chip Cartwright and Noel. UCF outscored UTEP 50-28 in the paint.

The Knights reached half-time with a 56-31 lead. As the second half began, everyone in the arena knew that this was the time in the past two games when the Knights would become complacent as their opponent worked itself back into the game.

"That was definitely an emphasis after halftime," O'Donnell said. "We had a big lead at East Carolina and we let it slip. We had a fairly decent lead against Tulsa and we let it slip. We went into halftime saying 'We just cannot let up.'"

Yet the Knights didn't miss a step in the second half as they never let their lead drop below 20 points and actually extended it to 70-42 on a short jumper by Taylor with 14 minutes left.

But even though nearly all of the second half represented garbage time for the Knights and Miners, the UCF fans were at their loudest with about two minutes to play and with their Knights one point short of triple digits. Forward

KNIGHTS' UPCOMING SCHEDULE		
SMU (A)	SAT.	8:05 P.M.
UAB (H)	WED.	7 P.M.
HOUSTON (H)	FEB. 2	7 P.M.
MARSHALL (H)	FEB. 6	7 P.M.
MEMPHIS (A)	FEB. 9	4 P.M.
RICE (A)	FEB. 16	8 P.M.
ECU (H)	FEB. 20	7 P.M.

Tony Davis gave them what they wanted with a 3-pointer along the right baseline.

"I don't know about the rest of the team," Noel said, "but I know me, Jermaine, [O'Donnell] and Mike Battle, we were on the bench like, 'Please somebody else get another bucket.' We were looking at that on the board. We really wanted to get 100; we wanted the fans to appreciate it."

It was the first time the Knights had topped 100 points since 2004.

Taylor scored a game-high 24 points in just 22 minutes. He was just one of a bunch of UCF guards who played very well against the Miners. The backcourt triplet of Noel, O'Donnell and Cartwright combined for 51 points on an astounding 81.8 percent shooting. They also had 16 rebounds, 18 assists and just three turnovers. Not to be forgotten, Davis finished with a career-high 16 points and made all six of his shots from the field.

The Knights' offense overshadowed the team's defense on the sixth-best scorer in the nation, Stefon Jackson. The UTEP guard entered with an average of 23.3 points per game. But the Knights limited Jackson to seven points in the second half, 17 for the game.

"I got to take my hat off to him; he's one of the best guards in the country," said

Noel, who had the assignment of guarding Jackson for the majority of the game. "...I was just trying to slow him down, limit his touches a little bit."

Maybe the only negative during UCF's extraordinarily positive night was an injury to center Stanley Billings. He fell on the floor in the opening minute of the second half and spent the next few moments writhing in pain. He was taken to the locker room, and returned later with his right arm in a sling and wrapped in bandages. The early indication from the team is that it is a bruised elbow.

UCF's next game is a road contest against SMU (6-11, 0-4). The Mustangs are one of the two winless teams left in C-USA play, and have lost six consecutive games. The Knights are near the opposite end of the spectrum with four consecutive wins and as one of three C-USA teams with a spotless conference record.

"[Wednesday's victory] is definitely a confidence booster but at the same time, we have to take in the fact that now we have a bulls eye on our back, that we have to play that much harder and not get complacent," O'Donnell said. "We're at the top of the leaderboard now and teams are going to be gunning for us. But we understand that."

The Knights and Mustangs are scheduled to tip-off at 8:05 Saturday night in Dallas.

Magic demolish Grizzlies with record 18 3-pointers



Orlando Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu drives past Memphis guard Mike Conley during the Magic's 112-85 win over the Grizzlies in Memphis on Wednesday. Turkoglu led the Magic with 26 points on 10-of-16 shooting. He also had six of Orlando's 18 3-pointers.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Orlando Magic kept launching from long range and didn't stop until they had a franchise record.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 26 points, and the Magic made a team-record 18 3-pointers in their 112-85 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday night.

Turkoglu was 6-of-8 outside the arc for Orlando, which hit 55 percent of its 3-pointers. The Magic's previous record for 3-pointers was 16 against the Atlanta Hawks on April 18, 1996.

"There was a lot of penetration and kicks, and that's why we were getting open 3s instead of coming down and settling for the 3-point shot," said Rashard Lewis, who had 16 points, going 3-of-6 from long-range. "We took what they gave us. Sometimes it was a layup, but the majority of the night, it was open 3-pointers."

The Magic won their third straight, while Memphis had its two-game home winning streak snapped.

Dwight Howard also scored 16 points for the Magic, and grabbed 10 rebounds. Keyon Dooling finished with 13 points and Maurice Evans scored 12.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 20 points, while Pau Gasol had 17 points and 11 rebounds. Mike Conley had 13 points.

There was a bit of concern that the Magic, the Southeast Division leaders, could have a letdown against one of the worst teams in the Western Conference. Orlando was coming off a last-second 102-100 win over Detroit on Monday, and will face the Pistons again Friday.

But Orlando lost to Memphis at home in December and had dropped nine of the last 11 in the series. Falling into a "trap game" is a sign of weakness and immaturity, Orlando coach Stan Van Gundy said before the game.

"[Memphis] took it to us and embarrassed us, in my opinion, on our defensive end," Van Gundy said. "If that's not enough incentive, I don't know what would be."

Apparently it was, because after trailing in the first quarter, Orlando used the 3-pointers to build a comfortable lead it never relinquished.

"We played really well after that," Van Gundy said. "I think all the guys that are playing in our rotation are playing good, solid basketball."

"It was our defense that got us going and in the second quarter, we clamped down and got some stops."

The game got away from the Grizzlies when Orlando used a 17-8 run to close the first half, then stretched the advantage in the early stages of the third quarter. That allowed the Magic to build the lead to 19, and they never let the margin dip under double digits the rest of the way.

The Magic shot 55 percent from the field and forced 15 Memphis turnovers, while only committing six themselves.

"They took a lot of them. Made a lot of them," Gay said of the Magic's long-range touch. "It was tough to play against them."

Turkoglu made 7-of-9 shots in the first half, missing only one of his five shots outside the arc, for 18 points to help Orlando take a 58-48 lead at intermission. Docing added 11 points off the Magic bench.

"It was just one of those nights where we were able to make shots," Turkoglu said. "The basket seemed really big, and whatever we were throwing was going in."

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Sick Of It All, Mad-ball, Death Before Dishonor, Wisdom In Chains, BackBooth, 6 p.m.
Sick Of It All celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2006 and will release a tribute album on April 25. Come see these hard-core bands from the Northeast as they take on O-Town. \$15

SATURDAY

George Carlin, Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre, 8 p.m.
The Grammy-winning standup comedian will debut his 14th HBO special on March 1, but catch him before then. \$41

Matt Nathanson, In-store performance at Park Ave. CDs, 6 p.m.

Since his show tonight at The Social is already sold-out, see him play earlier in the evening. Free

SUNDAY

Art Farm, Lake Eola, 10 a.m.

If a showcase of local art, food and music is your thing, check out this event that lasts until 4 p.m. Free

Movie Night, Drunken Monkey Coffee Bar, 7 p.m.

Every Sunday night this coffee bar shows mostly independent films. This week it is showing *Half Nelson*. Free

Let the Games... BEGIN

Otronicon spoils Orlando techies, gamers

CHRISTINE MULLEN
Contributing Writer

Otronicon invaded the Orlando Science Center on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.

The multimedia activities were endless, ranging from building your own video game with Full Sail students to forming your own *Rock Band* group and performing in front of adoring fans — even if they were just your friends.

The convention offered state-of-the-art technology with various additions to the gaming market.

A big hit for *World of Warcraft* fans was Blue Orb's display of the newest way to play the PC game — with an Xbox 360 controller.

Another type of gaming was represented by Hard Knocks, the simulated combat sports arena located near UCF.

"This is a new, innovative form of laser tag with a twist," said George Speese, a finance major at UCF. "Even though the cost is \$35 an hour, the price seems undoubtedly worth it."

Anime fans were also amid the patrons, displaying their love for Link, the main character from *Zelda*, and various characters from *Kingdom of Hearts* and *Final Fantasy*. Some even created their own characters.

The creativity didn't stop there.

Amid kaleidoscopic lights and fog machines, visitors got to jam on the *Rock Band* stage. The set was synched to a real drum set, constructed by *Robot Wars* member, Buzz. Staff members became breathless as 8- and 9-year-olds requested songs by bands such as Black Sabbath and Rush.

Of course Otronicon also made it possible for rockers to perform on the rooftop with *Guitar Hero*. Even though there wasn't a stage provided, there were ample guitars and TVs to go around. The exchange of tips between parents and children electrified the area, with 5-year-olds dominating the game on expert level — look out, Slash.

Around the bend, through the plentiful assortment of timeless arcade games and beyond the historic product lines from Macintosh, one room was filled with 30-inch TVs connected to numerous Nintendo Wiis and stocked with the most recent releases.

Despite the delayed release of *Super Smash Brothers Brawl*, people of all ages enjoyed the array of Wii Sports games. Families crowded around the Wii arena, waiting in line for the opportunity to perfect their bowling game. Even young children were begging their parents to play

the old-school arcade games, such as *Frogger* and *Donkey Kong*, that were normally occupied by college students taking a break from *Rock Band*.

For those who weren't into the physical aspect of gaming, there were many other avenues to dive into.

The Xbox 360 arena wasn't big enough to hold all of the games, and *Halo 3* was set up on the eight-story CineDome screen. Players had to wait in line to rock, paper, scissor their way into playing on the big screen.

Things got really heated when Monday night rolled around and brought with it the mother of all competitions. Contestants were required to pay a small fee to get a shot at first prize, which was \$100. Second and third place made out as well with \$75 and \$50 prizes.

Halo 3 was such a hit that staff had to close competition registration an hour early because of the extreme volume of entrants.

The nightly competitions made it virtually impossible for gamers to pick which night they would visit the Orlando Science Center. The first competition, held on Friday night, was one that warmed everyone's hearts:

Super Smash Brother's Melee.
The Darden Theater was

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MOVIE TIMES



Rambo, Lionsgate

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Rambo (R) 12:10p, 12:50, 2:25, 3:00, 4:35, 5:10, 7:20, 8:10, 9:30, 10:20, 11:50, 12:30a
How She Move (PG-13) 12:20p, 2:35, 4:50, 7:25, 9:40, 12:05a
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) 12:10p, 3:40, 7:05, 10:10
Meet the Spartans (PG-13) 12:30p, 2:45, 4:55, 7:35, 9:50, 12:00a
Untraceable (R) 12:55p, 3:10, 5:20, 8:15, 10:35, 12:50a
27 Dresses (PG-13) 1:10p, 2:20, 4:15, 4:40, 7:50, 9:50, 10:25, 12:20a, 12:45 Open Captioned & Descriptive Audio Showtimes: 12:05p, 7:10
First Sunday (PG-13) 12:40p, 3:35, 7:15, 10:00, 12:25a
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) 12:10p, 2:30, 4:45, 6:55, 9:35
Cloverfield (PG-13) 12:00p, 1:05, 2:25, 3:50, 4:40, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:40, 11:40, 12:45a Digital Projection Showtimes: 12:30p, 2:50, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55, 12:15a
Mad Money (PG-13) 12:45p, 4:05, 7:45, 10:15, 12:40a
There Will Be Blood (R) 12:00p, 4:30, 7:40, 10:55
I Am Legend (PG-13) 12:35p, 3:25, 7:55, 10:30, 12:55a
Juno (PG-13) 12:25p, 2:40, 5:05, 10:05, 12:35a
No Country for Old Men (R) 3:55p, 10:45
Michael Clayton (PG-13) 12:50p, 8:05
The Bucket List (PG-13) 1:00p, 3:30, 7:15, 9:45, 12:10a
Atanarjuat (R) 1:15p, 4:00, 6:50, 9:20, 11:35 — Listings for Friday, Jan. 25

THE TUBE

FRIDAY JANUARY 25

9 p.m. NBC *Friday Night Lights*
When charges are filed against Brian, he must decide whether to swallow his pride or stand up for what he believes in. This is one of the last shows with new episodes, and it's pretty good.

SATURDAY JANUARY 26

8 p.m. CBS *Super Bowl's Greatest Commercials 2008*
A retrospective on the most memorable ads aired during the Super Bowl. The best commercial is chosen by viewers who vote via the Internet. I guess when the networks run out of original shows, this is what happens: a show about commercials.

SUNDAY JANUARY 27

9:30 p.m. Fox *American Dad*
When Stan's mom gets dumped for the umpteenth time by a boyfriend, she comes running to Stan for support. Feeling threatened by her always-visiting mother-in-law, Francine is determined to cut Stan's umbilical cord and figure out what keeps going wrong with the men in her life. Like a regular Cagney & Lacey, Francine and Roger go undercover to solve the case. Meanwhile, Klaus gives Steve the kick.

MONDAY JANUARY 28

8 p.m. CW *Gossip Girl Revealed*
Gossip Girl announces Serena's return. This is a re-run of the pilot episode but also features additional footage and deleted scenes. They're really pushing this show hard, because it's good, so watch this special and get caught up.

TUESDAY JANUARY 29

10 p.m. MTV *The Life of Ryan*
Ryan is overwhelmed by his burgeoning business empire and dislikes being the one waiting at home while Kayla is away on business. What exactly does this Kayla girl do for business?

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 30

9 p.m. ABC *Last*
The castaways draw first blood in their battle with the Others while Charlie is being held in the Looking Glass hatch. It's been almost eight months since this episode aired, so this is your chance to refresh before tomorrow night.

THURSDAY JANUARY 31

8 p.m. ABC *Last*
Season Premiere! The survivors are uncertain whether to believe Charlie's final message. It's finally back!

—COMPILED BY WOODY WOMMACK

BILLBOARD

TOP 5 ALBUMS:
Artist / Title / Label

1. Alicia Keys / *As I Am* / BMG
2. Soundtrack / *Juno* / Rhino
3. Mary J. Blige / *Growing Pains* / Geffen
4. Radiohead / *In Rainbows* / BMG Japan
5. Raheem DeVaughn / *Love Behind The Melody* / Jive

MUSIC GODDESS

Kelley delivers catchy tunes, stays safe

AMANDA K. SHAPIRO
Staff Writer

Josh Kelley fans have a new reason to celebrate. Kelley's new album, *Special Company*, was set to be released in early February but has arrived ahead of schedule. Although his Web site and MySpace site still claim that the album is available for pre-order, the CD was released nearly half a month ahead of the projected debut date and is available for purchase through iTunes.

Josh Kelley fans will note a fuller sound on *Special Company*. On the new release Kelley stays true to the style that made him famous like that heard on "Amazing" from his



Josh Kelley
Album: *Special Company*
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Label: DNK Records
Available Now on iTunes

album *For The Ride Home*. Instead of changing his sound, Kelley opts for creating more

of an emphasis on his supporting band by utilizing backup vocals that are reminiscent of Robert Randolph and The Family Band. "Masterpiece" and "Special Company" serve as two examples of this with their edgy combination of funk and dance-worthy rhythms. Fans of Maroon 5 and Jon McLaughlin will appreciate the fusion of Josh Kelley's soulful croons with catchy guitar melodies.

"Unfair" features Kelley's octave-fluctuating voice over a funky bass line. Like most songs on the album, the track is upbeat and catchy. The most noteworthy track on the album is "Tidal Wave." The song is the perfect combina-

tion of sappy metaphors and light-hearted pop rock—enough to make any teenage girl think she's in love. "Still Gonna Try" takes on a country feel with the underlying twangy guitar melody. The song showcases a more mellow side of Kelley's music and ultimately, a more enjoyable side as well. "Lay Line" impresses with vocal harmonies that are supported by a soft duet between electric and acoustic guitar. Kelley recently became a newlywed when he tied the knot with *Grey's Anatomy* beauty Katherine Heigl, who was the presumable muse for the track "Hey Katie." Kelley's romantic side doesn't stop

there though, as *Special Company*'s lyrics appear geared toward relationships and love. While Kelley's new album includes a variety of catchy songs, the package fails to present anything truly refreshing.

Josh Kelley will head to the Germain Arena in Estero, Fla. for a show with O.A.R. and Sister Hazel on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 or \$5 for Florida Gulf Coast University students. For more information on Kelley's music and tour, check out www.JoshKelley.com.

Send questions, comments and album suggestions to: AmandaKShapiro@gmail.com

A LA MODE

Bold spring colors are bright when worn right

PATRICIA WEIGEL
Contributing Writer

For years, Floridians have not been able to get enough of their bright, floral-inspired colors.

Whether it's winter, spring, summer or fall, we have not let the drabness of our Northern neighbors' winters, nor the frigidness of our Midwestern friends, rain on our parade.

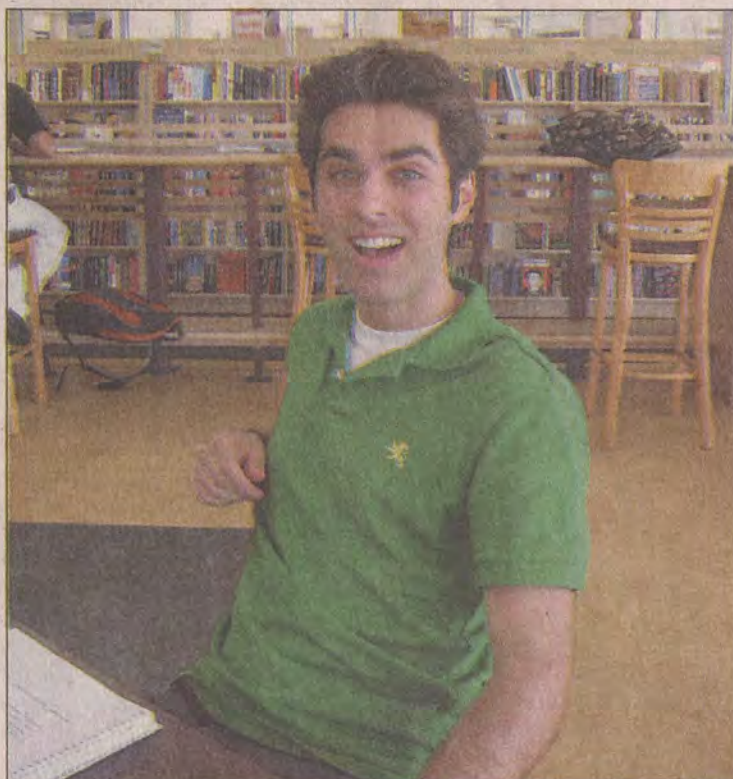
Finally, the world has taken notice — or at least decided they are over the past years' dull hues — and adopted a color palette for the winter and spring seasons that is anything but dreary.

On Wednesday afternoon, I set out on campus to find a few people to talk to who either just adopted the trend of bright colors or, as Florida natives, didn't know any other color scheme existed.

There were some sprinklings of color on fingernails, on T-shirts with patterns akin to graffiti and even on shoelaces, but nothing that really stood out. While the great fashion editors would be pleased to see the vibrancy in some of our community's



wardrobes, I believe they would be surprised



PHOTOS BY PATRICIA WEIGEL / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
Sarah Givens, left, shows off her bright-blue ensemble that she wore to class, while Kevin Cornwell, above, models his bright-green polo from Express with a bright smile to match.

to see that many co-eds prefer to stick to more subtle shades.

After taking a trip through and around the Student Union at UCF, I found a sophomore art major, Sarah

Givens, who was the epitome of color done right.

She wore a bright-blue, loose top with a ruffle around the neck. Her earrings dripped blue stones, and her feet flashed with blue, textured ballet flats.

When asked about her top,

Givens said, "I actually got it from this creepy old woman in my hometown for like \$4."

Givens said that although she doesn't necessarily have any fashion icons that are on the scene in the year 2008, a lot of the clothes she wears are inspired by another era: the '80s.

"[I] try and seek out an individuality," Givens said.

One more trip through the Student Union brought me to the UCF Bookstore, where I saw a flash of color sitting at a table in the cafe.

Kevin Cornwell, a junior marketing major, was wearing a green — not lime, but bright nonetheless — polo and a pair of jeans. He said he bought his polo from Express and remembered it being priced two for \$30.

"Today is the first day I've worn it to UCF," Cornwell said about the shirt. "I wore it so I could stand out."

Though Cornwell, Givens and other daring UCF fashion fiends would blend right in on the runways this season, they were just what the fashion experts have ordered to brighten up a wintery campus community.

Crowd was diverse this year

FROM A9

filled to capacity with enthusiastic spectators that could be heard from across the museum. First and second place reeled in some cash at \$100 and \$50.

The major prizes were saved for *Guitar Hero* and *Rock Band*. Winners received free tickets to the Video Games Live convention at the Hard Rock Live, and first place for *Rock Band* received the opportunity to perform at the venue.

UCF was in attendance throughout the various local

companies, such as Lockheed Martin's display of their newest simulations.

Digital Media graduate Juliet Norton was on the scene for the second year in a row, featuring her mixed media class project that entertained patrons by giving them a pair of interactive goggles and a racket to hit animated images of dragonflies.

She said she noticed a trend in the visitors.

"This year, it seems as though there is more of a diverse crowd compared to last year's attendance," Norton said.

"Definitely more families, high school and college students."

Even though Otronicon lasted for only four days compared to last year's 10 days, it still broke the daily attendance record with 3,000 patrons on Saturday, Public Relations Director Jeff Stanford said.

"One of the biggest changes for this year was the format," Stanford said. "Instead of a 10-day event, the Orlando Science Center wanted to focus on having a higher attendance of the general public."

"Having the Otronicon over the school holiday provided the opportunity to have the open and close weekends at the same time. Another focus that



COURTESY FRANK WEBER
Otronicon, held at the Orlando Science Center from Jan. 18-21, featured TVs set up with gaming systems such as Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii, stocked with the latest video games. The event attracted a diverse crowd of families, college students and teenagers.

we always have was to include hometown businesses allowing us to continuously work with the community."

If you missed out this year, don't fret. The Otronicon will

return next year with bigger and better games and systems.

Don't forget to plan ahead and mark it on your calendar; you don't want to miss out on this gamers' paradise again.

Orlando Jai-Alai

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Hurley JVC

Gossip Girl keeps viewers talking

JACKIE GILOVOY
Contributing Writer

Viewers were ready to throw in the towel for the sophomore network, The CW, but network President Dawn Ostroff struck gold with a show based on the acclaimed *New York Times*-bestselling series by Cecily von Ziegesar: *Gossip Girl*.

Less than a month after its premiere on Sept. 19, *Gossip Girl* became the first full-season pickup of the 2007-2008 television season.

Developed by *The O.C.* creator Josh Schwartz and *The O.C.* producer Stephanie Savage, *Gossip Girl* centers around six young socialites of the Upper East Side of New York City.

Like the books, the show is narrated by the infamous *Gossip Girl* (voiced by Kristen Bell of *Veronica Mars*), a blogger who reports on the lives of the inner circle.

She knows all, but no one knows her. Her spies are everywhere, waiting to catch a glimpse of one of the elite caught in a compromising position.

The progression of the first 12 episodes leads up to episode 13, where secrets come out and a queen is left dethroned by her maidens.

The build-up involves the bonds of friendship pushed and tested, couple complications, unwanted feelings and a scandal to boot.

As the show begins, former "It Girl" Serena van der Woodsen (Blake Lively), also known as "S", has just returned from boarding school, and everyone's dying to find out why she left NYC and why she has returned. Everyone, that is,

except her best friend Blair Waldorf (Leighton Meester), also known as "B."

It turns out that Serena and Blair's boyfriend, Nate Archibald (Chace Crawford), had an affair before she left. To top it off, Blair, an insecure, manipulative bitch, feels overshadowed by her blond friend; everyone loves Serena, including Blair's boyfriend and Blair's mother.

The show deals with the love-hate relationship between the two girls and their peers. Mixed into the drama are Dan Humphrey (Penn Badgley) and Jenny Humphrey (Taylor Momsen), siblings from Brooklyn who attend elite private schools — St. Jude's and Constance Billard, respectively — on scholarship.

Dan has been in love with Serena since he saw her at a party. Now she actually knows his name, and the two develop a romantic relationship.

Jenny, on the other hand, attempts to befriend Blair and the rest of her crew. She is labeled a social climber.

And of course, every show needs a bad boy. Chuck Bass (Ed Westwick) beds a different girl every night, drinks scotch excessively and manipulates his way around, while trying not to disappoint his billionaire father.

Drama unfolds between the six key players and their parents and classmates.

While there are currently no new episodes, reruns begin on *Gossip Girl*'s new night, Monday, Jan. 28 at 8:00 p.m. These reruns, marketed as *Gossip Girl Revealed*, will show the cast as they share in-depth interviews and deleted scenes throughout the time slot.

Ledger's talent dims too soon

WILLIAM GOSS
Staff Writer

A day that started out with the fairly agreeable announcement of this year's Oscar nominations found itself ending in tragedy as past Academy Award nominee Heath Ledger was found unresponsive in his Manhattan apartment Tuesday.

At the time of our print deadline, the investigation was ongoing into the cause of death. There is now a greater indication that it was an accidental overdose of sleeping pills that claimed the life of the 28-year-old actor and not suicide, despite his recent despondence over the separation from his fiancée, *Brokeback Mountain* and *I'm Not There* co-star Michelle Williams, and their two-year-old daughter, Matilda.

"It's really sad," said Shannon Summers, a senior accounting and finance major. "He was a really good actor."

His last two roles, in 2006's *Candy* and 2007's *I'm Not There*, featured him as a struggling drug addict and an actor tormented by the press, respectively.

The current campaign for *The Dark Knight*, the much-anticipated sequel to *Batman Begins*, focuses heavily on Ledger's villain, the Joker, whose dialogue happens to include the lines "Why so serious?" and "I believe that which doesn't kill you makes you stranger."

"Supposedly, the role took a toll on him," said Zeke Coggeshall, a freshman cinema studies major. "I think that he had a lot of potential after his Oscar nomination, but he took on unconventional roles, and who knows what he would've done after [*Brokeback Mountain*] and *The Dark Knight*."

The young actor had apparently completed all of his work on the film, and



COURTESY FOCUS FEATURES



GARY HE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Khaled Ali, 41, lights a candle at a makeshift memorial for the deceased actor Heath Ledger, Wednesday, outside the apartment building where his body was found in the SoHo neighborhood of New York. Authorities said the death was a possible overdose, but were awaiting the results of an autopsy. Ledger had recently split from his fiancée, *Brokeback Mountain*'s Michelle Williams.

early indications suggest that his performance will provide a worthy closure to his acting career.

Regarding the film, Sum-

mers said, "I'll still go see it, even more so to support his legacy."

Ledger had completed only part of shooting on

director Terry Gilliam's *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*. Production for that film was shut down following his death.

ONLINE COVERAGE

QUICK FLIX by William Goss

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		3		1		8
		1		4		2
	7			5		1
		9				7
		8				1
2					5	
6			2			9
	3		4		6	
9			3		7	

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 - Squealer
 - Terminator
 - Model Campbell
 - Asner and Begley
 - Crude fellows
 - Wept
 - H.H. Munro
 - Cables
 - Extremes
 - "The Mutiny"
 - Perfumed packet
 - Fellow
 - Social stratum
 - "Hoosier Poet"
 - In general
 - Abound
 - Marry again
 - Lap dog
 - Hot-plate platform
 - Now or Never
 - Playthings
 - Take as given
 - Instigate litigation
 - Notable time
 - Penguinlike bird
 - Building lots
 - Cheap liquor
 - Kills one of every ten
 - Leaving nothing out
 - Org. of Flyers
 - Actress Ruby
 - Piggery
 - University domain
 - Type of rug or code
 - Pestle's partner
 - Choice word
 - Knack
- DOWN
- New Mexico art mecca
 - No-see-um
 - Scuttlebutt
 - Like Mussolini
 - Hayes or Stern
 - "The Accidental Tourist" director
 - Choice word
 - Knack
 - Boys of Rap
 - Young hooter
 - Easily led
 - Leveled
 - Passover repasts
 - Patella location
 - Shop
 - Out of order
 - Natl. network
 - Notable time
 - Penguinlike bird
 - Building lots
 - Cheap liquor
 - Kills one of every ten
 - Leaving nothing out
 - Org. of Flyers
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 - Type of rug or code
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Last issue solved

- Somewhat recent
- "David" or "The Thinker"
- Variety show
- English county
- Serpent's warning
- Fiddlesticks!
- "Auld Lang"
- Pelion's twin peak
- Part of GTE

Solution and new puzzles in next issue's Classifieds

LiveRight in the UCF Area!

2008 Spring Housing Guide

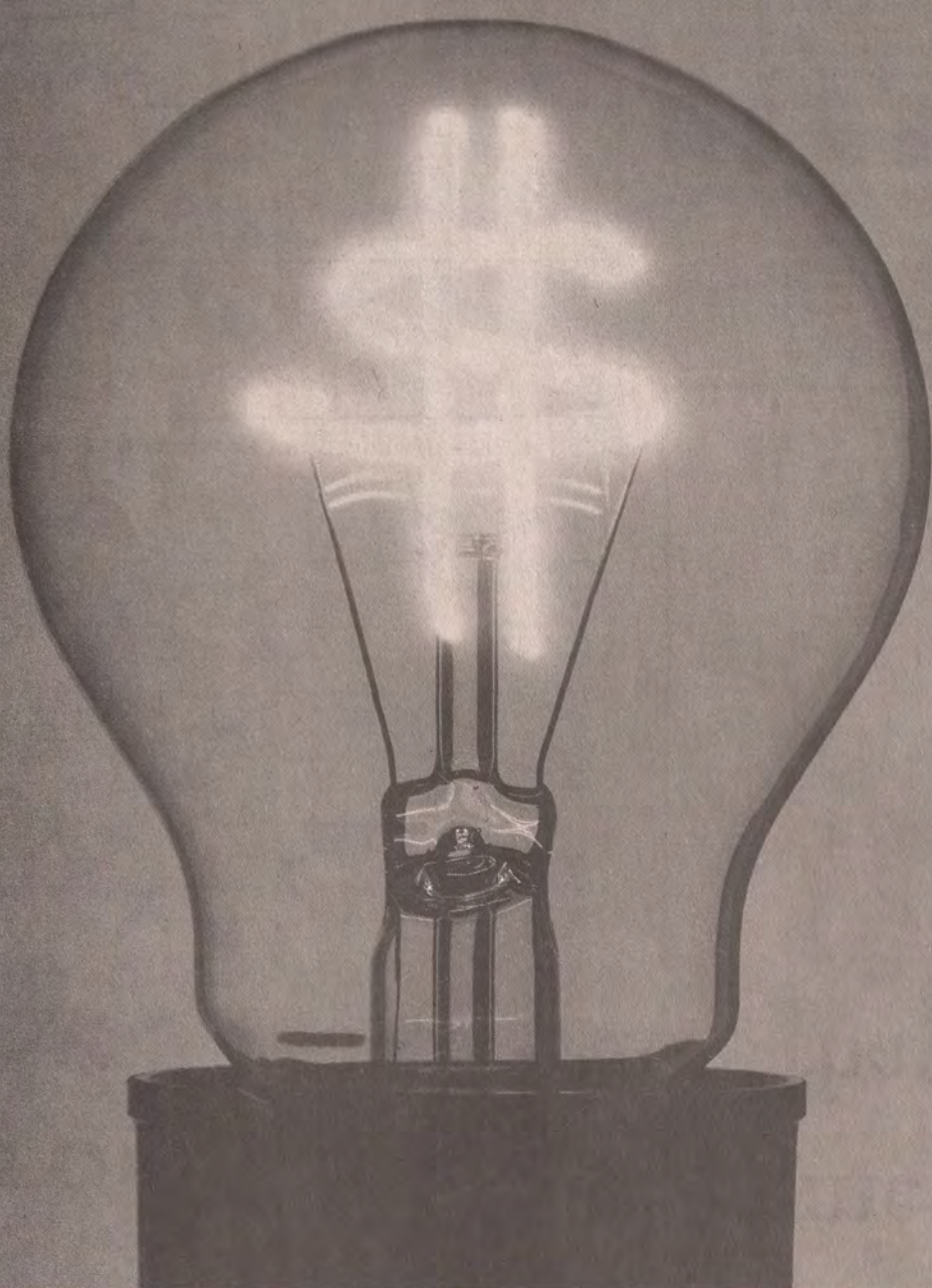
is almost here!

Look for it in the January 28th edition of the:

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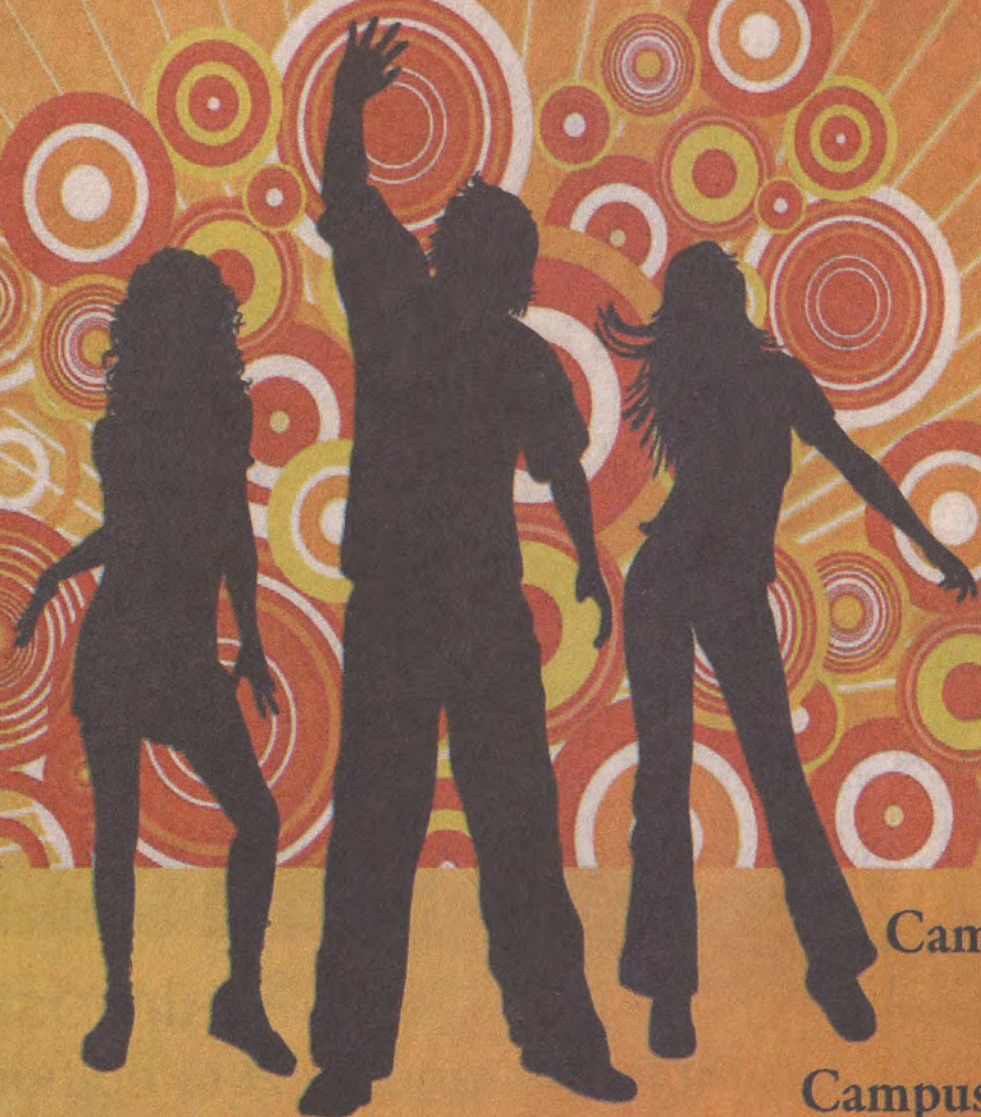
MEET THE SPARTANS

REGENCY ENTERPRISES PRESENTS A NEW REGENCY / 3 IN THE BOX PRODUCTION A JASON FRIEDBERG AND AARON SELTZER FILM "MEET THE SPARTANS" SEAN MAGUIRE CARMEN ELECTRA KEN DAVITAN KEVIN SORBO WRITTEN BY DAVE JORDAN AND JOJO VILLANUEVA DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER LENNERTZ PRODUCED BY MARK MCNAIR
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS FRANK HELMER AND PECK PRIOR PRODUCED BY WILLIAM ELLIOTT DIRECTED BY SHAWN MAURER PRODUCED BY ANTHONY MILCHAN PRODUCED BY JASON FRIEDBERG AND AARON SELTZER PETER SAFRAV
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